

NOAA DIVING PROGRAM

EXAMINER INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE REPORT OF MEDICAL HISTORY AND REPORT OF PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORMS

TO THE EXAMINER (MD/DO/NP/PA ONLY) –

This person is an applicant for training or currently participates in diving activities with SCUBA (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) or other related equipment. Your opinion of the applicant's medical fitness for diving is requested. This history and physical examination focuses on conditions that may put a diver at increased risk for injuries or other conditions that could lead to drowning. The diver must be able to withstand some degree of cold stress, the physiologic effects of immersion, the optical effects of water, and have sufficient physical and mental reserves to deal with possible emergencies.

Please review the applicant's answers to all items (items 6 through 42) on the Report of Medical History form. Summarize any abnormal findings and pertinent data in item 44 and include your signature, address, and telephone number in item 45.

Please complete items 8 through 57 on the Report of Physical Examination. There are directions listed in some of the items and results must be documented as directed. All items 8 through 57 **MUST** be completed. There are no items on either form that will have a "not examined" or "not applicable" response. Any item not completed will result in the form being returned for completion. This could result in a delay in the processing of a dive application or renewal of a diving certification.

There are very specific laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies that are required with each initial or periodic physical examination, depending upon the age of the applicant. Please perform the appropriate required laboratory tests/diagnostic studies listed below. When all are completed, actual copies of the results must be submitted to NOAA by the applicant/diver.

Initial Examination (all ages)

- Chest x-ray within the last 24 months (Submit official signed interpretation, no films)
- Spirometry (results and interpretation)
- Complete Blood Count (CBC)
- Audiogram (attach testing equipment printout)
- Complete urinalysis
- Vision (distant and near vision results)

Periodic Examination (all ages)

- Complete Blood Count (CBC)
- Complete urinalysis
- Vision (distant and near vision results)

Include for Age 40 and Older for All Examinations

- 12-Lead resting EKG (trace and interpretation)
- Hemoglobin A1c
- Lipid screening (total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, VLDL, triglycerides)

All above laboratory tests/diagnostic studies as well as the medical history and physical examination must be performed within the previous 12 months with the exception of the chest x-ray which must be performed within the previous 24 months. If you conduct other laboratory tests/diagnostic studies as a part of the physical examination, copies of these results must be submitted to NOAA by the applicant/diver.

Final determination for fitness for diving will be made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Diving Program. For questions, contact the NOAA Dive Medical Officer at (206)526-6474.